STATISTICAL BULLETIN

METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

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Mortality Record for 1941

THE year 1941 established still another new health record. The death rate of the 16½ million wage-earners and their families insured in the Industrial Department of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company reached the unprecedentedly low figure of 7.4 per 1,000. This is more than 2 percent below the previous minimum. The accomplishment is all the more noteworthy as it occurred despite several handicaps. In the early months of the year an influenza epidemic swept eastward across the country from the west coast, where it had started late in 1940. The high rates occasioned by this event were, fortunately, more than counterbalanced by the low mortalities registered in the later months of the year. Apparently, the dislocation of the population incident to the war effort, the concentration of recruits in training camps, and the speeding up of industry for increased production failed to cause any increase in mortality of insured persons.

Although complete data are not available, as yet, for the general population, it appears that the death rate for the country at large will also be slightly below that of last year. At any rate, there were only 440,103 deaths in the 86 major cities in 1941 as compared with 441,759 in 1940. Considering the probable increase in the population of these cities due to rising birth rates and to the influx of defense workers, it seems certain that the death rate for the urban areas, at least, will show a decline for the year. Reports for some individual States for varying portions of the year likewise indicate lower mortality in 1941 than in 1940.

Just how favorable the mortality was in 1941 may be illustrated by comparing the figure with that recorded 24 years ago, when the United States was once before engaged in a world conflict. In 1917, the mortality of the Industrial policyholders of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company was 11.6 per 1,000, or more than half as high again as in 1941. The improvement in mortality has occurred in all age groups. The rate this year in the youngest age group is more than 80 percent below that of 1917. From ages 5 to 34 the decrease has been approximately 70 percent, while even among persons of ages 65 to 74

the rate has fallen 30 percent. The amount of improvement in each age group for 1941 over 1940 and 1917 is shown in the table on page 3.

The low mortality for 1941 has resulted in another increase in expectation of life. The provisional figure of 63.4 years is a half year greater than the 62.9 registered in 1940. This is the 12th year in succession to show a rise in average length of life. The gain since 1929, when the Industrial policyholders had their last setback in expectation of life, is 6.6 years, and since 1917 the gain has been 13.7 years.

The most outstanding development in the experience of the year 1941 was the continued improvement in the death rate from pneumonia. The present rate has reached the low level of 30.5 per 100,000. This may be compared with a rate of 35.5 in 1940; 42.8 in 1939, 50.6 in 1938, and 66.9 in 1937. Prior to 1937 the rate had never fallen below 60 per 100,000, the average for the preceding 10 years being as high as 73.4. The improvement in 1941 was especially noteworthy because it occurred in spite of the influenza epidemic mentioned earlier, which, in previous years, usually occasioned a rise in the pneumonia mortality. The very presence of influenza on a large scale last year offered a good test of the efficacy of the new method of treatment with the sulfa drugs. Their value now seems assured.

Another splendid achievement during the year was the improvement in tuberculosis. The death rate for 1941 was only 42.8 per 100,000, or 4.0 percent below that of the preceding year. Among the policyholders residing in the United States, the improvement was 5.4 percent. The decline in this disease has been a striking feature of the mortality experience for many years. New minimum rates are being established year after year, and the indications are good for the fulfillment of our predictions that the disease will be virtually stamped out in another two decades. The problem is now more and more concentrated in the colored contingent of our population. Last year the rate among the colored policyholders of the Metropolitan Industrial Department was 119.6 per 100,000. Because these people serve as a focus of infection, the need for more antituberculosis work among them is urgent, not only on their own account but also in the interest of the population as a whole.

One source of information which has become available this year and which could be used to good advantage is the case finding resulting from the Selective Service Act. As the rejections for respiratory diseases — largely tuberculosis — are little below those in the last World War, while mortality from the disease has declined 77.3 percent, it appears that a better job of early case-finding is being done. Advantage should be taken of the discovery of these early cases. Experience has shown that excellent results can be obtained when treatment is made available while the disease is still in its minimal stage.

DEATH RATES PER 100,000 FOR ALL CAUSES OF DEATH. TOTAL PERSONS—BY AGE PERIODS. WEEKLY PREMIUM-PAYING INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS, 1941, 1940, AND 1917—METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

AGE GROUP	1941*	1940	1917	PERCENT DECLINE 1941 SINCE	
				1940	1917
AGES 1 AND OVER.	735.0	752.3	1,161.1	— 2.3	—36.7
1 to 4.....	204.4	205.3	1,084.6	— .4	—81.2
5 to 9.....	90.4	92.8	341.2	— 2.6	—73.5
10 to 14.....	79.1	88.9	256.7	—11.0	—69.2
15 to 19.....	139.1	146.5	481.5	— 5.1	—71.1
20 to 24.....	200.7	213.8	663.4	— 6.1	—69.7
25 to 34.....	277.9	283.3	843.9	— 1.9	—67.1
35 to 44.....	522.3	547.0	1,235.1	— 4.5	—57.7
45 to 54.....	1,062.2	1,114.9	1,961.8	— 4.7	—45.9
55 to 64.....	2,288.5	2,421.9	3,583.0	— 5.5	—36.1
65 to 74.....	5,341.1	5,569.6	7,640.2	— 4.1	—30.1
75 and Over..	13,899.3	13,903.8	14,258.5	†	— 2.5

*Death rates for 1941 are subject to slight correction, since they are based on provisional estimates of lives exposed to risk.
†Less than 0.05.

Besides pneumonia and tuberculosis, five other diseases shown in the table on page 4, recorded new minimum rates in 1941—namely, typhoid fever, scarlet fever, diphtheria, appendicitis, and diseases of the puerperal state.

While two of the children's diseases are listed among those with new minimum rates, three others—namely, measles, whooping cough, and diarrhea and enteritis—showed slight increases. The rise in mortality from measles was in line with past experience, as this disease recurs periodically and 1941 was a "measles year." The fact that the rate was less than one per 100,000 despite the epidemic is encouraging.

A minimum figure for maternal mortality during 1941 is noteworthy, since it was accomplished in the face of a sharp rise in the number of women exposed to the hazards of pregnancy and childbirth. The present rate of 4.8 per 100,000 may be compared with the 12.1 recorded in 1930, the latest year with a comparable birth rate. A reduction in maternal mortality is of the greatest importance, not only from the standpoint of the individual but also from that of the Nation. The loss of women in childbirth causes all too often the disruption of the family, with the resulting lack of care for the surviving children.

An unusual feature of the year's experience is the comparatively favorable record made by the chronic conditions characteristic of middle and later life. In the group of the cardiovascular-renal diseases, the death rate for only one—the diseases of the coronary arteries—is up. Chronic nephritis is down 9.4

percent, other chronic heart diseases 2.1 percent, and cerebral hemorrhage 7/10 of 1 percent. Even the increase in rate for the diseases of the coronary arteries and angina pectoris—2.8 percent—is small as

CRUDE DEATH RATES PER 100,000 FOR SELECTED CAUSES. TOTAL PERSONS, ALL AGES. WEEKLY PREMIUM-PAYING INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS, 1911 AND 1931 TO 1941—METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

CAUSES OF DEATH	1941 (a)	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1911(b)
ALL CAUSES OF DEATH	744.4	760.9	760.0	766.0	822.5	839.8	837.6	854.1	860.0	856.9	877.1	1,253.0
Typhoid fever	.5	.7	.7	1.0	.9	1.0	1.1	1.5	1.6	1.7	2.4	22.8
Communicable diseases of childhood	3.2	2.9	4.2	6.4	7.6	6.5	10.0	11.1	9.0	11.4	14.5	58.9
Measles	.8	.3	.6	1.6	1.0	.9	2.5	2.7	1.5	1.7	3.2	11.4
Scarlet fever	.4	.6	.7	1.1	1.6	2.1	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.8	3.2	13.1
Whooping cough	1.3	1.2	1.6	2.0	3.0	1.7	2.7	3.7	2.3	3.0	3.6	7.1
Diphtheria	.7	.8	1.3	1.7	1.9	1.8	2.2	2.1	2.6	3.9	4.5	27.3
Influenza and pneumonia	38.3	43.4	52.7	58.1	85.1	84.5	80.8	76.4	82.8	84.5	94.8	131.1
Influenza	7.8	7.9	9.9	7.5	18.2	14.7	14.7	11.4	20.3	19.1	21.1	15.9(f)
Pneumonia—all forms	30.5	35.5	42.8	50.6	66.9	69.8	66.1	65.0	62.5	65.4	73.7	115.2(f)
Tuberculosis—all forms	42.8	44.6	45.2	47.2	52.1	54.3	55.8	59.4	64.7	69.8	76.2	224.6
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	38.9	40.2	40.6	42.1	46.7	48.5	49.8	52.2	57.8	61.8	67.2	203.0
Syphilis	11.5(c)	12.0(c)	11.2	11.3	11.4	11.7	11.5	12.3	11.4	11.9	11.6	11.0
Cancer—all forms	104.8	104.4	101.7	98.8	96.0	93.9	96.1	96.1	94.6	91.1	84.1	68.0
Diabetes mellitus	27.4	29.8	27.7	24.8	25.6	24.7	24.4	24.4	24.1	23.0	21.1	13.3
Alcoholism	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.9	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.9	4.0
Cerebral hemorrhage	60.6	61.0	59.7	58.5	59.7	61.9	61.2	63.2	63.8	62.1	60.4	64.2(f)
Diseases of the coronary arteries and angina pectoris	54.6	53.1	46.5	41.4	38.6	34.0	32.0	28.8	24.3	20.1	17.0	(e)
Other chronic heart diseases (d)	156.1	159.5	161.0	154.0	159.7	161.0	158.1	162.9	161.5	155.5	147.9	141.8
Diarrhea and enteritis	5.0	4.6	5.4	7.4	8.9	8.5	8.1	11.1	10.6	11.2	15.7	27.9
Appendicitis	7.4	9.3	10.3	10.5	11.2	11.4	11.4	13.1	13.2	13.2	14.1	10.9
Chronic nephritis	51.9	57.3	51.8	53.8	55.7	59.4	60.2	64.9	67.1	68.7	67.0	95.0
Puerperal state—total	4.8	4.9	5.4	6.2	6.9	7.7	8.7	8.8	9.4	10.5	11.7	19.8
Total external causes	61.3	58.9	59.4	62.2	67.7	71.5	69.6	73.2	71.9	71.5	77.6	97.9
Suicides	7.6	8.7	8.8	9.4	9.0	8.9	9.2	9.5	10.0	10.6	10.0	13.3
Homicides	3.6	3.7	4.4	4.4	4.8	5.0	5.9	5.9	6.3	6.1	7.0	7.2
Accidents—total	50.1	46.5	46.2	48.4	53.9	57.7	54.5	57.8	55.6	54.8	60.6	77.4
Accidental burns	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.7	3.1	3.2	3.6	3.3	3.7	3.8	8.8
Accidental drowning	4.6	4.2	4.2	4.9	5.4	4.8	4.9	5.3	6.1	5.9	6.4	10.2
Accidental traumatism by fall	9.4	9.2	9.7	9.9	10.4	11.3	11.4	11.1	10.6	10.1	10.0	13.2
Accidental traumatism by machines	1.1	.9	.8	1.0	1.1	1.1	.9	.8	.8	.8	1.0	1.8
Railroad accidents (g)	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.0	2.3	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.7	2.7	9.5
Motor vehicle accidents	20.8	18.2	18.3	18.6	22.1	21.5	21.5	22.2	20.9	20.0	23.3	2.3(f)
All other accidents	10.3	10.0	9.2	10.2	10.6	14.0	10.8	12.8	11 8	12.3	14.2	31.6
Other diseases and conditions	112.8	113.2	115.8	122.9	133.5	145.6	146.5	144.6	147.8	148.3	158.1	261.8

(a) All 1941 death rates are subject to slight correction, since they are based on provisional estimates of lives exposed to risk.
(b) Ages 1 and over.
(c) Includes aneurysm of the aorta.
(d) Excludes pericarditis, acute endocarditis, and acute myocarditis.
(e) Included in all other diseases and conditions.
(f) Not comparable with the rates for 1931 to 1941.
(g) Includes collisions between automobiles and railroad trains.

compared with the rise of 14 percent in the preceding year. While cancer mortality has continued to show an upward trend, the increase is small—less than ½ of 1 percent. Diabetes for the second time in the past decade has reported a lower rate than in the immediately preceding year.

Among external causes, homicides recorded a minimum rate in 1941. At the same time accidents—all forms—increased. The rise in accidental deaths was largely due to the sharp rise in motor vehicle fatalities. The year's rate for motor vehicle accidents—20.8 per 100,000—is 14.3 percent above that of 1940 and the highest since 1937.

As the entrance of the United States into the war occurred late in the year, the rate for war deaths is still insignificant. The deaths from accident and disease among enlisted personnel far outranked those from combat.

We, as a people, are entering this war with far better health conditions than obtained at the beginning of the last war. The advances in medical science and public health practice have not only largely eliminated the mortality from typhoid fever, diarrhea and enteritis, and the principal communicable diseases of childhood, but have also brought under control pneumonia and tuberculosis. The diseases which remain major problems are largely the chronic degenerative conditions. The country is in a good position to meet those special problems for the coming year which will arise from our entrance into the war.

The Tempo of Military Losses in the Two World Wars

MILITARY deaths in the present conflict are still far below those of the first World War, when allowance is made for the length of time each of the belligerent nations has been engaged in fighting. The extraordinary differences in the tempo of the two wars are demonstrated by a review of the losses in each war for roughly comparable periods of time, for the major belligerent countries individually and for all countries combined. As the outbreak of hostilities in September 1939 occurred only a month after the 25th anniversary of the outbreak of the first World War, it will be convenient to compare, for countries involved at the outbreak of the present war, the losses in the last four months of 1939 with those of the five war months of 1914, and, in like manner, losses in 1940 and 1941 with those in 1915 and 1916 respectively. For other countries, comparisons will be made as far as possible for similarly constituted periods of time. Necessarily, the comparison can, in many cases, be based on estimates only, because accurate figures are not always available. Comparison is also rendered difficult because of boundary changes following the last war and during the course of the

present war. In the latter, more especially on the eastern front, many of the claims of the belligerents as to opponents' losses have been almost fantastic, while their own losses have been much understated. Since available figures usually give total deaths in the fighting forces without segregating deaths in action, we shall, for the most part, consider deaths from all causes.

French death losses in 1939, in the first four months of the present war, were quite small—less than 2,000—as compared with the terrific losses approximating 300,000 in the five months of war in 1914. Even in the first half of 1940, marked by the debacle of the French army in May and June, fewer soldiers were killed than in the corresponding period of 1915. The true number for the French army, probably between 100,000 and 125,000, is appreciably less than the 200,000 deaths in the first half of 1915. French losses since the Battle of France in 1940, which, ironically, were incurred in conflicts with British forces—at Dakar and Oran and in Syria—have been negligible as compared with the corresponding period in the first World War, when in the last half of 1915 and in the year 1916, deaths among French troops were in the neighborhood of 150,000 and 250,000 respectively.

British losses on the western front show an even greater contrast. Deaths in the small British contingent sent to France were practically negligible in 1939, whereas the famous "Contemptibles" hastily thrown into action to help stem the German tide in 1914 suffered severely, with a death toll in France and Flanders alone exceeding 17,000 in the five war months of 1914. Again, in 1940, despite the swift advance of the German forces, the death losses among the British forces on this front were only about 10,000, including those sustained at Dunkirk, and were thus far exceeded by those of 1915. For the latter year as a whole, British losses on the western front totaled about 70,000, one half of them occurring during the first six months, and additional losses totaling more than 30,000 were sustained in the Dardanelles venture alone. In 1941 also, British military losses have been small when measured against those of 1916, for deaths in the British forces on all the active fronts in 1941 have probably been fewer than 40,000, as compared with approximately 150,000 deaths of British soldiers in France and Flanders alone in 1916.

Germany's military losses at the beginning of the present war likewise showed a sharp contrast with those of the opening months of the first World War. The Polish campaign, the sole major engagement of 1939, resulted in losses of only a little more than 10,000 German soldiers, according to official German figures, whereas in the five months of fighting in 1914, when Germany was engaged simultaneously on two fronts, she suffered losses totaling nearly 250,000 men. Again, in 1940, Germany's sweeping victories were won at a fraction of the cost of lives

of the 1915 campaigns, when 450,000 men were sacrificed. This may be compared with the figure of less than 40,000 in 1940, as asserted by the Germans, or of about double that number, as estimated by neutral sources. The campaigns in the early part of 1941 also brought the Germans cheap victories, as measured by military losses which, in Greece and Crete, according to their official figures, were less than 6,000. In 1941 as a whole, however, the attack on Russia worked a radical change. On this front alone, from the beginning, on June 22d, up to December 1st, German death losses of 162,000 were admitted. The rate of German losses in December must have risen considerably as a result of the Russian counter-offensive begun during the month. At the very minimum, it is likely that 300,000 to 350,000 German soldiers died in 1941. The actual figure may be as high as 600,000, if we disregard fanciful estimates emanating from vague sources, which may be colored by propaganda. Thus, 1941 is the first year of the present war in which German losses approximate and probably exceed those of the corresponding period of the last war, the year 1916, when 350,000 German soldiers died. Unquestionably, German losses on the eastern front in the last half of 1941 far exceed those on the same front in 1916 or in any six months of the last war.

Russia's losses in 1941 are properly compared to those incurred between August 1914 and February 1915. The latter were severe, about 300,000, but the Russian military deaths in 1941 were much higher. Admitted losses up to November 25th were 490,000 killed. The number of missing exceeds this figure, and at the rate she has lost men in recent months, it is likely that the deaths in Russia's army in 1941 exceeded 750,000. Mention should also be made of the loss of approximately 50,000 Russian soldiers during the Finnish campaign in the winter of 1939–1940.

By the very nature of Italy's participation in the present war, her military losses have been well below those of the corresponding periods of the last war, which she entered in May 1915. Deaths from action and from disease in Italy's armed forces in 1940, covering nearly seven months of war, totaled between 10,000 and 20,000, as compared with approximately 65,000 deaths in 7½ months of 1915. Again, in 1941, the deaths in her armed forces—probably between 30,000 and 50,000—were a fraction of the total of 120,000 reported in 1916.

As for our own experience, our losses in action during the three weeks of our active participation in the war in 1941 were heavier than in all of the first year of our participation in the last war. The 2,729 deaths among naval personnel at Honolulu alone were more than three times our total naval losses from enemy action—less than 900—throughout the last war.

Japan's losses, both military and naval, in the three weeks of 1941, following her attack on us, were

relatively much more serious than ours during those weeks, or than her own in the last war. For she lost many thousands of men last December alone, whereas during all the last war, down to 1918, her losses in action were trifling—only 300 men.

Careful consideration of the various statements on military losses in the present war would indicate that total deaths in all the armed forces, from the beginning of the war in 1939 to the end of 1941, will reach at least 1,500,000 to 1,750,000, but may exceed 2,000,000. As against this, the total losses from the beginning of the last war to the end of 1916 were in the neighborhood of 5,000,000. Not the whole of the latter total, however, is properly comparable with the total losses thus far in the present war. If account is taken of the actual length of time during which each belligerent has fought, the figure for the World War losses comparable with the total so far in the present war would be approximately 3,000,000. Even so, deaths in all the armed forces thus far in the present war are materially below those incurred in the corresponding period of the last war. Except for very brief periods of active fighting, the rate of these losses in the present war, up to June 1941, was far lower than in the corresponding years of the first World War. Only in the last half of 1941 were these losses as heavy as during the last war. Recent events will, of course, very materially swell the figures here discussed, which relate only to the period up to the end of 1941.

Accidents in the Death Toll

ONE death in every three, among youths and young men, is the result of accident. This striking fact may be set down as one penalty of our modern, mechanical way of life. For, while we have been eminently successful in reducing the death rate from *disease*, we have not been equally efficient in protecting ourselves against the hazard of accidental death, to which mechanical devices, and in particular the automobile, contribute so greatly. And so we find ourselves today with the startling ratio of 33 percent of all deaths among young males attributable to various types of accidents.

This and other related facts are illustrated in the chart on page 9. At all ages combined, deaths by accident in the United States, 1937 to 1939, amounted, in round numbers, to 97,000 annually, and constituted 8.7 percent of all deaths among males and 4.6 percent among females. Special occupational risks and the greater venturesomeness of the male combine to raise the percentage of accidental deaths for the male to almost twice that for the female. The contrast between the sexes is even more marked at ages 10 to 24, where the percentage among males reaches the very high value of 33, already referred to, which is not shared by the females. Among the

latter, the percentage is 18.8 at ages 5 to 9, 13.6 at ages 10 to 14, 11.1 at ages 15 to 19, and less than 10 at any of the other age groups shown in the graph. Only at ages 75 and over is the ratio for females above that of the males, and this may be due, in whole or in part, to the greater weighting of this broad age group among women with persons in the higher age brackets.

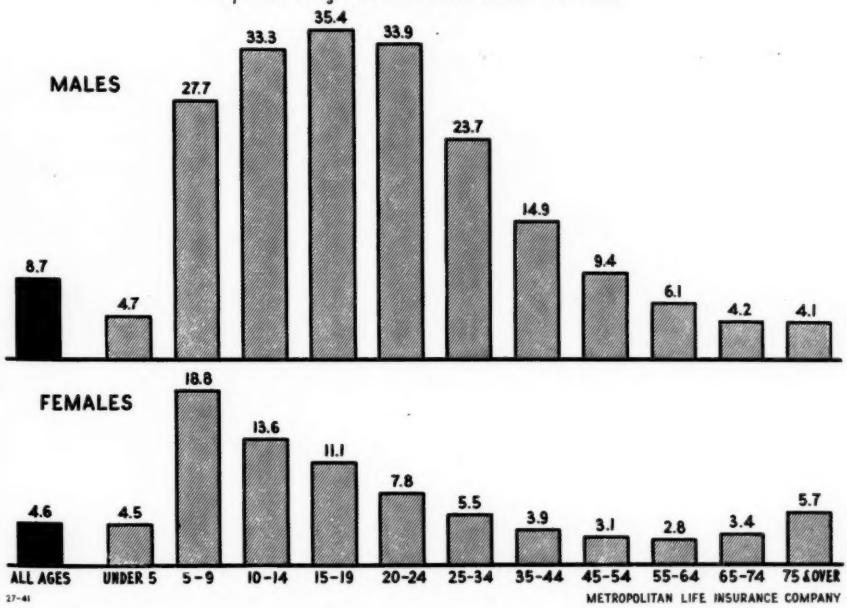
The ratios shown in the chart are of a piece with the observation that accidents rank first as a cause of death among males over the broad range of ages 5 to 39, whereas among females they are the leading cause only at the school ages 5 to 14.

In studying these ratios of accidental to total deaths, age by age, the great variation in the actual mortality at successive ages must be kept in mind. So, for example, the relatively low ratios of 4.7 percent for males and 4.5 percent for females observed at ages under 5, nevertheless represents a sizable number of deaths, because, especially in the first year of life, the total death rate is high. A similar remark applies to the higher ages, where a low ratio of accidental deaths, in a generally high death rate, still implies a large number of deaths by accident.

Very early in the history of man he encountered the fact that the inanimate forces which he presses into his service, frequently rebel against him. The struggle for the control of their vagaries is as old as the human race; its modern form is the accident prevention movement.

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS AS PERCENT OF TOTAL DEATHS

By Sex and Age Periods - United States 1937-1939



Statistical Information, Please

We have heard of the great hardships from extreme cold suffered by the troops on the Russo-German front. Are temperatures 40° below zero within our own American experience?

There are many localities within the United States that have recorded temperatures below 40°, and what is perhaps most striking, some of these localities have also recorded extremely high summer maxima, thus exhibiting a phenomenal temperature range. For example, extreme temperatures have been recorded for each of the localities listed as follows, the minus sign indicating degrees below zero: Bismark, N. Dak., low −45, high 114; Helena, Mont., low −42, high 103; Huron, S. Dak., low −43, high 111; Northfield, Vt., low −41, high 98; Lander, Wyo., low −40, high 102.

For what causes is the death rate among males much greater than that among females?

The death toll from alcoholism among males is at least eight times as great as that among females. Almost the same ratio is found in the case of ulcer of the stomach. Fatalities from accidents are more than three times more common among men than among women; the ratio for suicide is also about three to one, and syphilis presents a like picture. Males have a death rate from angina pectoris and diseases of the coronary arteries more than 2½ times that of women. Among the causes of death for which the death rate for males is from 1½ to twice that for females are tuberculosis, influenza and pneumonia, and arteriosclerosis. These ratios are based upon the mortality experience of white Industrial policyholders of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company of ages 1 to 74 years.

How much has modern medical science increased the longevity of diabetics?

The discovery of insulin revolutionized the treatment of diabetics and has materially increased their expectation of life. The gains are most impressive among children. A generation ago few diabetic children survived as much as one year after onset of their disease; today, the diabetic child of age 10 will, on an average, live another 40 years. The gains are significant even at the older ages; thus the diabetic of age 50 has now, on an average, another 14½ years of life, whereas formerly his expectation of life was only eight years. Not merely additional years of life have been restored to diabetics. They now enjoy a fuller and more useful life. They are, for the most part, able to carry on their normal activities.

Is June the bridal month?

June is indeed predominantly the month for marriages in the United States, but this is not universal. In a number of States in the southern part of the country, December is the favored month.

The following table shows the mortality among Industrial policyholders for December 1941, November 1941, and December 1940, together with the death rates for the years 1941 and 1940.

DEATH RATES* PER 100,000 POLICYHOLDERS FROM SELECTED CAUSES. WEEKLY PREMIUM-PAYING INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS — METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

CAUSES OF DEATH	ANNUAL RATE PER 100,000 POLICYHOLDERS*				
	December 1941	November 1941	December 1940	YEAR 1941	YEAR 1940
ALL CAUSES—TOTAL	727.3	666.9	757.0	744.4	760.9
Typhoid fever	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.7
Measles	.1	.2	.1	.8	.3
Scarlet fever	.4	.4	.6	.4	.6
Whooping cough	1.2	.9	1.4	1.3	1.2
Diphtheria	.6	.8	1.0	.7	.8
Influenza	4.5	3.0	7.8	7.8	7.9
Pneumonia (all forms)	27.3	23.4	36.0	30.5	35.5
Tuberculosis (all forms)	37.7	36.0	38.8	42.8	44.6
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	34.2	32.5	35.0	38.9	40.2
Syphilis	10.3	9.0	12.8	11.5	12.0
Cancer (all forms)	99.3	94.9	99.8	104.8	104.4
Diabetes mellitus	23.5	24.1	27.5	27.4	29.8
Cerebral hemorrhage	62.3	56.4	60.5	60.6	61.0
Diseases of the coronary arteries and angina pectoris	56.1	51.7	57.3	54.6	53.1
Other chronic heart diseases†	154.6	132.4	150.1	156.1	159.5
Diarrhea and enteritis	2.9	5.3	4.1	5.0	4.6
Appendicitis	5.3	5.6	6.8	7.4	9.3
Chronic nephritis	51.1	44.0	50.5	51.9	57.3
Puerperal state—total	3.8	3.6	3.5	4.8	4.9
Suicides	6.8	5.1	7.6	7.6	8.7
Homicides	2.9	3.0	2.8	3.6	3.7
Accidents—total	51.3	45.5	48.5	50.1	46.5
Home accidents	10.7	9.1	11.2	11.1	11.7
Motor vehicle accidents	19.6	20.8	21.3	20.8	18.2
All other causes of death	125.1	121.3	138.9	114.1	114.3

*The rates for 1941 are subject to slight correction, since they are based on provisional estimates of lives exposed to risk.

†International List (1940) titles 92, 93 (c), (d), (e), and 95.

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STATISTICAL BULLETIN,
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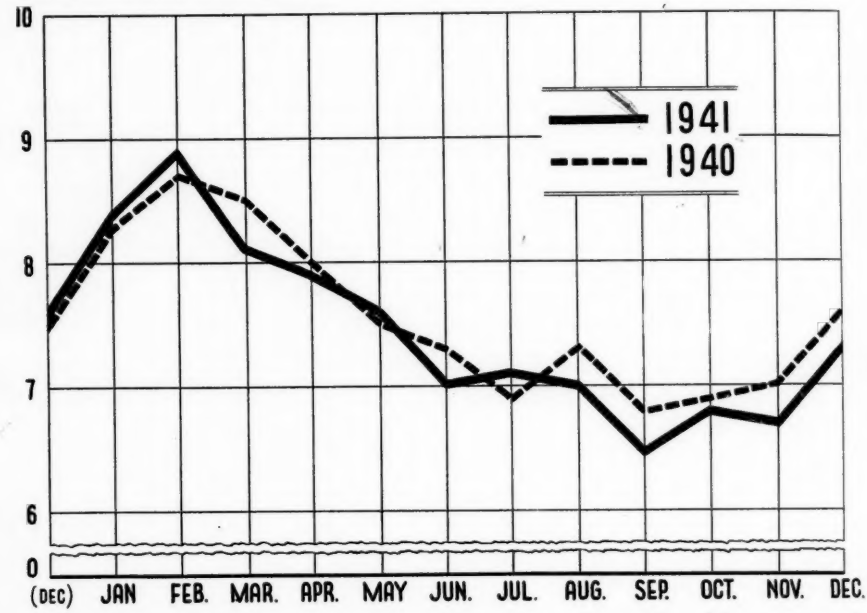
MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES

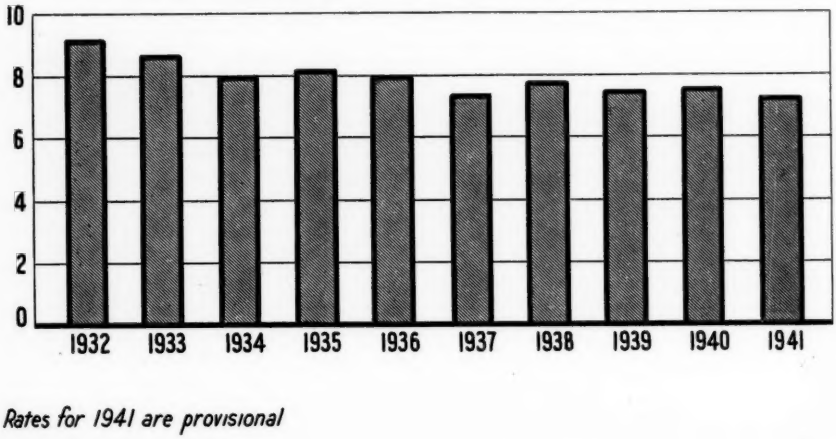
METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT, WEEKLY PREMIUM-PAYING BUSINESS

DEATH RATES PER 1,000 · ANNUAL BASIS



(DEC)	JAN	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUN.	JUL.	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
1940	8.3	8.7	8.6	8.0	7.5	7.3	6.9	7.3	6.8	6.9	7.0	7.6
1941	8.4	8.9	8.1	7.9	7.6	7.0	7.1	7.0	6.5	6.8	6.7	7.3

DEATH RATES FOR DECEMBER



Rates for 1941 are provisional

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